

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00 ISO-00

TRSE-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9969

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 2543

US MISSION NEW YORK USUN 2426

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UNCLAS ROME 3528

FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: FAO, UNWFC

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL MEETING: HIGHLIGHTS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S  
OPENING STATEMENT

REF: ROME 3437

/SUMMARY/ - DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA'S STATEMENT WAS GOOD OVERVIEW OF FOOD SITUATION AND PROBLEMS AND OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUDGET DECISIONS NOW CONFRONTING FAO. ONLY HIGHLIGHTS WILL BE REPORTED IN THIS TELEGRAM. FULL TEXT IS BEING SENT UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM, AS WELL AS IN USUAL FAO TRANSMITTAL SYSTEM TO WASHINGTON.

### 1. /WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND PROSPECTS/

HE NOTED IMPROVEMENTS IN PAST THREE MONTHS, SINCE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON CEREALS SUPPLIES, IN COVERED SUPPLIES FOR MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (MSA) COUNTRIES, DUE TO INCREASED COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, U.S. INCREASE OF 2 MILLION TONS IN FOOD AID, (WHICH HE TWICE CALLED ATTENTION TO) AND IMPROVED

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CROP PROSPECTS IN INDIA. IN OTHER HAND, HE POINTED TO IMMEDIATE

SHORT-TERM PROBLEM, AND FACT THAT MEETING THIS SHORT-TERM PROBLEM WILL NOT ALTER LONGER-RANGE ONE. FERTILIZER HE STRESSED AS VITAL ELEMENT, GIVING ESTIMATE OF SHORT FALL OF 357,000 TONS<sup>1/2</sup> IN MSA COUNTRIES IN 1974-1975 YEAR, AMOUNTING TO ABOUT DLR 180 MILLION. ALTHOUGH SAYING THERE ARE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1975, HE REFERRED TO FEARS OF POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF PRODUCTION IN NORTH AMERICA BECAUSE OF REDUCED PRICES, AND TO POSSIBLE UNFAVORABLE WEATHER.

2. /WORLD FOOD SECURITY/

DIRECTOR GENERAL REPORTED THAT AT AD HOC MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVES CONVENED IN LONDON BY UNITED STATES ON FEBRUARY 10-11, PROGRESS WAS MADE BUT APPARENTLY WAS LIMITED BY ISSUE WHETHER COMMITMENTS COULD BE MADE OUTSIDE FRAMEWORK OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. NEXT STEPS INCLUDE THAT INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL PREPARATORY GROUP MIGHT CONSIDER RESERVES WHILE WORKING ON POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT. SUBSEQUENT EXPERT CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL STOCKS POLICIES, HELD IN FAO, REACHED CONCLUSION THAT DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDING IN GATT, IWC, AND ROME WERE CLOSELY RELATED AND SHOULD NOT DELAY ONE ANOTHER. IT WAS ENVISAGED THAT DISTINCTIONS SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN QUESTIONS OF PRICE AND SECURITY. IN RELATIONS BETWEEN FAO AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, HE SUPPORTED PROPOSAL THAT PRESIDING OFFICER OF EACH ATTEND OTHER'S SESSIONS AS OBSERVER, BUT SUGGESTED FURTHER INTERRELATIONSHIPS NEED TO BE WORKED OUT. AS FAR FAO'S COUNCIL ELECTING 10 MEMBERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN FAO'S FIVE REGIONAL AREAS TO CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS PRECEDENT FOR THIS IN CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, AND THAT FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCES WHICH WOULD NORMALLY ELECT THESE MEMBERS WILL NOT BE MEETING THIS YEAR.

3 /PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1976-1977/

DR. BOERMA PROPOSED A BUDGET OF DLR 185 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF DLR 81 MILLION OF WHICH DLR 41 MILLION IS FOR INCREASED COSTS, AND DLR 40.6 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS.) HE ARGUED INCREASES IN FAO REGULAR BUDGET ARE NEEDED TO FULFILL INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY.

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BILITIES IMPOSED ON FAO BY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. IN DETERMINING PRIORITIES, HE SAID THERE IS POINT AT WHICH BASIC CONSIDERATION BECOMES SHORT-TERM OR LONG-TERM COST-BENEFIT. HE CLOSED BY STRESSING NEED FOR FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION, INCREASING REGIONAL AUTHORITY AND RESOURCES.

4. /COMMENT BY COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES/

CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED COMMENT BE HELD UNTIL DISCUSSION OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION. CANADA, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THAT COUNCIL HEAR COMMENT OF PAROTTE, OBSERVER FOR INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL, PRELIMINARY TO ITEM 6. PAROTTE MADE A BRIEF COMMENT, IN GENERAL CONCURRING WITH HIS REMARKS, BUT TAKING ISSUE WITH THE 20-22 MILLION TON FIGURE FOR CARRY-OVER STOCKS, WHICH SHOULD BE FOR END OF YEAR RATHER THAN FOR JUNE 30 (FOR WHICH TIME CORRECT FIGURE WOULD BE ABOUT 35 MILLION TONS). FAO STAFF OFFICIALS AGREED THIS WAS CORRECT, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN SO FOOTNOTED IN THEIR MATERIAL. THE JORDANIAN REPRESENTATIVE SEIZED THE OCCASION TO MAKE SOME MORE GENERAL COMMENT, SAYING IN PART THAT IF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES DEMAND AVAILABILITY AND INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF OIL, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT ALL COUNTRIES WITH POTENTIALS FOR GROWING GRAIN SHOULD DO SO TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE AND NEEDED. IN SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY U.S. DELEGATE PROGRASS IN RECENT YEARS IN MAKING MORE LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WAS FULLY COVERED, AS REPORTED, SEPTTEL VOLPE

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